

HENRY BIRD COLLECTION OF LEPIDOPTERA

The Department of Insects and Spiders of the American Museum of Natural History proudly announces the accession of the *Papaipema* (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) collection of Henry Bird. It consists of 1,118 specimens of moths; of this total, 32 are holotypes, 10 are allotypes, and 63 are labelled as paratypes. The collection contains the primary types of all the species and forms described by Bird in this and related genera, as well as the holotype of *Papaipema harrisi* ab. *mulieris* Strand. It contains early stage material and examples of the larval workings of nearly every species, over 400 reared parasites, and 64 genitalic slides. In addition there are three volumes of manuscript notes, descriptions, illustrations and correspondence on the group.

Mr. Bird's interest and studies in this group began over 60 years ago. The first of a series of 34 papers was published in 1898, and the last in 1934, giving the results of his extensive life history studies, as well as the descriptions of new species. Some of his results are included in Hampson's *Catalogue of the Lepidoptera Phalaenae in the British Museum*, volume 9 (1910). In volume 7, page 286 (1926) of *The Macrolepidoptera of the World*, Draudt says that the genus *Papaipema* "comprises beautiful insects of mostly more than medium size, the American 'borers,' the life history of which has been most perfectly cleared up by the unflagging researches of Mr. Henry Bird at Rye, being unparalleled in any other genus. He quite systematically investigated the process of life of the species mostly living in the interior of large herblike plants and published quite a number of fascinatingly written essays. Our own work he has besides supported by putting at our disposal a great number of important notices and a magnificent material for the plates, for which great kindness we herewith once more express our best thanks." W. T. M. Forbes, in his *Lepidoptera of New York and Neighboring States, Part III, Noctuidae*, states (p. 191) that "almost all our life histories are due to Bird."

Hence it can be seen that this extensive collection is of great value, not only for the types and specimens it contains, but for its great contribution to our basic knowledge of this group.—FREDERICK H. RINDGE, *The American Museum of Natural History*.